

Parents FLAG Edmonton

October 1994

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday
October 18
@ 7:30 pm**

Gay & Lesbian Community Ctr.
Rm 104, 11745 Jasper Ave
For further information phone
Cindy at [REDACTED] or phone
Lynne at [REDACTED]

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Coffee will be served.



PLEASE WRITE to PFLAG
Edmonton with your questions
and/or carefully considered points
of view. Perhaps one of the



following topics is of importance
to you and the sharing of your
thoughts could benefit others:

- .- What are my concerns/
challenges as a parent of a lesbian/
gay person?
- .-What would promote
understanding and acceptance of
non-heterosexual people?
- .-Biography or autobiography as a
parent of a lesbian/gay person.

-A personal story of "coming out"
by a lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-
gendered person.

-Announcement of an event or
service that is pertinent.

--Other suggestions?

Please mail your letters to :

PFLAG Editor



RED DEER SUMMIT 1994

Impressions of a Great Weekend!

It is early Monday morning and I
am just waking up to the fact that
for the last two days we have
enjoyed a most heartening and
revealing experience. "We" are
three married couples, all parents
of gay sons. Arriving in Red Deer
to take in the seminar, workshops,
and social events we soon found

ourselves the object of so much attention, respect and gratitude it was almost overwhelming. Making contact with others was very easy and truly rewarding. Attending many workshops we learned a lot about a wide range of topics.

We soon found that our most important contribution to the summit was simply "being there". Cindy and Dick, Jenny and Terry, Dorothy and myself (Ernie) parents who accept and love our children for themselves, were there for the lesbian and gay young people whose parents may not yet accept their sexual orientation. Our thanks to them for such a warm and enthusiastic welcome!

The Summit commenced with a wine and cheese party—very social, enjoyable and *noisy*!

Saturday workshops ran in pairs for one hour each. Subjects covered were:

1. Homosexuality and the scriptures. Hosted by Rev. Barbara MacLennan (Metropolitan Community Church) whose eloquent and witty replies to the bigotry of the "Far Right", the TV evangelists, and their likes were powerful stuff!

2. Pairing in another room "Just People", one of the Summit organizations, worked on a proposed homosexual "National Information Centre".

3. From noon to 1:00 two Networking areas were discussed—one for social and the other for political groups.

4. After lunch the topic of a Gay and Lesbian talk show to be run on Shaw cable TV raised basic concepts and a framework for a

pilot program which host Michael Leboldus welcomed.

5. Sam Sebrce, a lesbian lawyer, led a discussion on personal legal issues for the lesbian/gay community including aspects of Domestic Partnership Agreements.

6. The last hour began rather strangely for us parents. We wandered uncertainly through what seemed to be a gay men's bookstore, complete with comics, muscle mag's and other colorful "stuff". Our presence raised quite a few chuckles from the assembled young men whose topic would be "Gay men in the the 90's", facilitated by G.M.O.C. (Gay Men's Outreach Crew) and the Aids Network of Edmonton.

7. Our topic was "Homophobia in the Workplace", a sharing of personal experiences guided by Anne Erskin (403-437-4055).

At the Saturday evening dinner and dance our Edmonton PFLAG group was honored with a touching recognition of our presence. A collection presented to us by our hosts and the "party people" was most gratefully received and will be added to our funds. We truly value the love and respect in which it was given.

Sunday morning we all joined in a wonderful brunch again hosted by the Summit '94 organizer, Hillary and crew, who must be congratulated for the smooth running and well structured event that was our pleasure to attend. After brunch Noreen Marshall, a working member of the Human Rights Commission, detailed how much had been done for lesbian/gay rights through concerted action but warned how much yet needs to be done.

Parents FLAG Edmonton

Practical, uplifting but laced with sharp wit her words demonstrated the courage and leadership needed in our future. This was a call to spread the word and build the PFLAG unit in Edmonton, to help Red Deer to start a chapter and to get in touch with our counterparts in Calgary.



CINDY'S SUMMARY

September 20, '94 PFLAG Mtg

Our first meeting of the Fall was held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre (GLCCE) where the coffee was on and Jeff extended a warm welcome. We had a good group of "old" and "new" members.

Cindy talked about spreading the duties around so that it won't continue to fall on the same two or three:

- Lynne will continue to have the "Helpline number";

- Cindy will remain the contact person with PFLAG Federation;

- Ellen has taken over the newsletter and favorable reviews were voiced. Thankyou to Joan for all her hard work on the newsletter previously.

- Bryan mentioned the importance of "being tuned in" to the needs of the group, especially newcomers. He will look after breaking into smaller groups at meetings to meet special interests and/or needs.

- Newcomer, Blanche, has offered to work on getting guest speakers and videos with help from other members.

- Publicity Chairperson.

This position is still open. We need to be better known to achieve our goal of supporting other parents. Suggestions from members included:

1. Our own telephone number listed in the white pages;
2. Use of free advertisements on TV events calendars.
3. Dale suggested a telephone line "manned" by our members which the public could access three or four nights per week.

People are also needed for the following positions:

- Advocacy;
- Fundraising;
- Social & Special Events.

If any of these areas are your "cup of tea" please let us know by phone or at the next meeting.

P.S. The chairperson's job is open too!

PFLAG'S year goes from October 1 to September 30 so dues for the next year are now payable. Out of our membership dues \$5.00 US (roughly \$7.00 Can.) goes to the PFLAG Federation. This covers the "Pflagpole" paper issued quarterly and various updates. Because of high mailing costs and also the fact that many of our members are sensitive about receiving mail marked PFLAF, all papers come to Cindy and are distributed at monthly meetings.

All PFLAG members have been invited to an informal session with GALOC (Gays and Lesbians on Campus) on October 31, 1994, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Athabasca Hall. If you wish to come please let Cindy know [redacted]

Parents FLAG Edmonton

[redacted] We have found this event to be very rewarding -- just ask Terry!

I would like to extend my thanks to the organizers of the Alberta Summit '94 for a most enjoyable weekend.



EVENTS' CALENDAR

POOR SUPERMAN

By Brad Fraser

Oct. 11 to 30/ '94

will be playing its Canadian premiere at the Roxy Theatre (10708 - 124 St.) For more info on this gay-themed play call 453-2440. Tickets for Oct 13 are already sold out.

This month's GAY & LESBIAN monthly meeting will be held Oct 21, '94 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gay & Lesbian Community Centre (104-11745 Jasper Ave.).

Edmonton Vocal Minority is having a fundraiser and silent auction, **VOCAL VITALITY**, on Oct 29, '94 at 8:00 p.m. in the Catalyst Theatre (10943 - 84 Ave.)

Tickets, \$15, are available at Boystown or the Front Page Newstand (10846 - Jasper Ave.), or for \$17 at the door.

EVM Concert

with Heather Bishop

Nov. 26 @ 8:00 p.m.

in the Garneau Theatre (8712 - 109 St.) Tickets are \$8 low income & in advance; \$10 advance; and \$12

at the door. One year subscriptions are \$20 low income and \$32 regular.

NORTHERN TITANS INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

For further info on this 10 pin tournament call Joe at [redacted]



IN YOUR FACE

An excerpt from "Christ and the Homosexual Person" by the Reverend Charles M. Bidwell, PhD, Dean of Samaritan Education in Canada, Metropolitan Community Churches in Canada, Edmonton.

Because I believe we are taught to fear and hate, I believe that it is the responsibility of churches and parents to stand firmly against bigotry and the abuse of persons who are differently oriented or differently challenged or different in any way from the people in power. Because the feelings of revulsion at same sex expressions ("You do what?") is based on what you have been taught is repulsive, rational arguments will do little to change those impressions.

But feelings can be changed by allowing yourself different experiences and knowledge. The ignorance and fear that keeps people hating and bashing lesbian, gay and bisexual persons (when they are discovered or suspected) is a sinful, unloving state for anyone to be in. As more healthy and happy homosexuals and bisexuals reveal themselves to their friends,

family members, and co-workers they will be putting a face - a known and loved face - on the fearsome stereotype those people have been taught to believe in. Coming out is an act of courage; it is also an act of love because it offers the person trapped in fear and hatred a chance to grow and change and be freed from fearing and hating those who are not heterosexually oriented.

The media are giving people an awareness of homosexuality that wasn't there twenty years ago. Some of it has been positive but all of it keeps people aware that lesbian, gay and bisexual persons are a very present reality. You

can't grow up today, as I did, thinking that you are the only one in the world who shares your feelings for those of your gender. Now there are publications, organizations, computer bulletin boards, phone lines, TV and radio programs, and movies that can keep anyone informed and connected....

....Communicate to your children that it is natural for some men to love men and some women to love women and that your concern is that they find someone whom they can love and be loved by regardless of their gender.

Parents FLAG Edmonton

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

Following are forms on which to apply or reapply for membership.

All applications are very much appreciated. Thankyou!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual Membership	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household Membership	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Limited Income	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter subscription	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation	\$_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Make cheques payable to P-FLAG/Edmonton and Mail to:

Cindy [REDACTED]



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Postal Code _____

Date _____
 Phone _____
 Prov. _____

P-FLAG is a non-profit and all volunteer support P-FLAG group not affiliated with any ethnic, political or religious organizations. Memberships are available for all. All information collected is strictly confidential.

